

Application Serial No. 10/053,182
Art Unit 3673 (Attorney Dkt: HALB:031)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. (Withdrawn) A lost circulation material or composition comprising a blend of a carbon-based material and a water-swellaable but not water-soluble crystalline synthetic polymer.
2. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1 wherein said carbon-based material comprises graphite carbon particles and ungraphitized carbon particles.
3. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 2 wherein said graphite carbon particles are resilient and said carbon-based material comprises more graphite carbon particles than ungraphitized carbon particles.
4. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1 wherein said polymer comprises polyacrylamide.
5. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 4 wherein said polyacrylamide is crosslinked.
6. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1 wherein the carbon-based material comprises about 70 to about 90 pounds per barrel of the blend.
7. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1 wherein the polymer comprises about 2 to about 10 pounds per barrel of the blend.
8. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1 further comprising glyoxal.
9. (Withdrawn) A drilling fluid comprising a lost circulation additive wherein said lost circulation additive comprises a blend of a carbon-based material and a water-swellaable but not water-soluble crystalline synthetic polymer.
10. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 9 wherein said carbon-based material comprises resilient graphite carbon particles and ungraphitized carbon particles.
11. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid claim 9 wherein said polymer comprises polyacrylamide.
12. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein the carbon-based material comprises about 70 to about 90 pounds per barrel of the blend.
13. (Withdrawn) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein the polymer comprises about 2 to about 10 pounds per barrel of the blend.

14. (Currently amended) A method for preventing or alleviating lost circulation of drilling fluid in a wellbore penetrating a subterranean formation at intermediate depths less than about 15,000 feet, said method comprising treating said wellbore with a lost circulation material or composition comprising a synergistic blend of a resilient carbon-based material and a water-swellaable but not water-soluble crystalline synthetic polymer capable of preventing or alleviating lost circulation without addition of reinforcing materials; said blend comprising the carbon-based material and the synthetic polymer in a ratio ranging from about 70 ppb to about 90 ppb carbon-based material to about 2 ppb to about 10 ppb synthetic polymer, and alcohol to facilitate the combination of the carbon-based material and the synthetic polymer.
15. (Currently amended) A method for preventing or alleviating loss of drilling fluid in a wellbore penetrating a subterranean formation having temperatures of about 200°F or less, said method comprising:
adding to said drilling fluid an additive comprising: a
about 70 ppb to about 90 ppb resilient carbon-based material and a about 2 ppb to about 10 ppb water swellaable but not water-soluble crystalline synthetic polymer,
wherein the resilient carbon-based material comprises resilient graphitic carbon particles and ungraphitized carbon particles and the quantity of the resilient graphitic carbon particles exceeds the quantity of ungraphitized carbon particles,
wherein the resilient carbon-based material has a particle size about 95% greater than 200 mesh and about 100% less than 40 mesh, and
wherein the synthetic polymer comprises a dehydrated crystallized form of cross-linked polyacrylamide that will readily hydrolyze following exposure to water, and
facilitating the combination of the resilient carbon-based material and the synthetic polymer in the additive with an alcohol;
circulating said drilling fluid in said wellbore; and
allowing said additive to enter a lost circulation zone of said formation.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)

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18. (Currently amended) A method for treating lost circulation of fluids in a wellbore penetrating a subterranean formation at an intermediate wellbore depth of less than about 15,000 feet and having a subterranean temperature of about 200°F or less, the method comprising:
introducing into said wellbore a composition comprising consisting essentially of:
a resilient carbon-based material having graphite particles and ungraphitized particles,
~~and~~ a water-swellaable but not water-soluble crystalline crosslinked polyacrylamide
polymer, an alcohol to facilitate the combination of the resilient carbon-based material
and the polymer in said composition, and an optional weighting material; and
allowing said composition to enter a lost circulation zone of said formation.
19. (Canceled)
20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein said ~~composition further comprises an~~ alcohol is glyoxal.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein said carbon based material comprises about 70 to about 90 pounds per barrel of the composition and said polymer comprises about 2 to about 10 pounds per barrel of the composition.
23. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said wellbore is horizontal or directional.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein said additive does not comprise bentonite or other reinforcing materials.
27. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein said wellbore penetrates said subterranean formation at an intermediate depth less than about 15,000 feet.